INFORMATION SHEET

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PLACARDS
NFPA 704

GENERAL INFORMATION

The placarding system is intended to provide basic information for fire fighting, emergency and other personnel to enable them to recognize the presence of hazardous materials and decide whether to evacuate the area or to commence emergency control procedures. It is also intended to provide them with information to assist in selecting fire fighting tactics and emergency procedures.

The placarding system identifies the hazards of a material in terms of three principle categories: **"HEALTH"**, **"FLAMMABILITY"** and **"REACTIVITY"**. It indicates the degree of severity by a numerical rating that ranges from **4** (four), a severe hazard, to **0** (zero), no hazard.

The arrangement of numerical ratings is as follows: The **"health"** rating is always at the nine o'clock position; the **"flammability"** rating is always at the twelve o'clock position; the **"reactivity"** rating is always at the three o'clock position. Each rating is located in a diamond field, each of which is assigned a color. **BLUE** for "health" hazard, **RED** for "flammability" hazard and **YELLOW** for "reactivity" hazard. The space at the six o'clock position is reserved for any special hazards, such as reactivity with water. The standard symbol for indicating unusual reaction with water is a **"W"** with a line through the center (W̶). This space may also be used to indicate the presence of oxidizers (**OXY**).
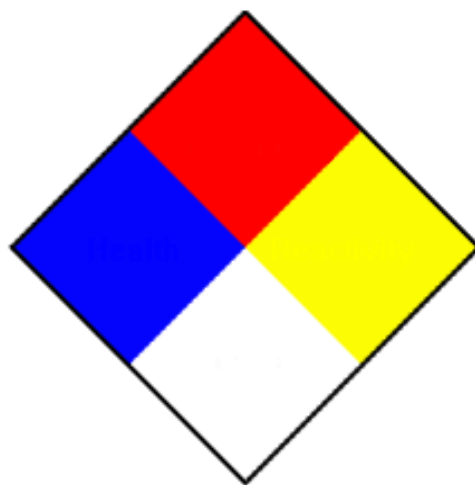
LOCATION

Hazard identification signs shall be placed on stationary aboveground tanks & containers and at all entrances to locations where hazardous materials are stored, dispensed, used or handled when quantities require a permit. The placards shall be provided at other specific locations designated by the fire department.

SIZE

Minimum 10 inches square – may be larger.

The following information should be provided on your placard(s):

(Health)   (Fire)   (Reactivity)

_____   _____   _____

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